

THE A.N.A. 77th ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION MEDAL

The official medal for the A.N.A. 1968 Convention, to be held in San Diego California, takes as its theme, "San Diego---First on Land, Sea, and in the Air." The medal contrasts on its obverse and reverse old and new San Diego. The year of the 77th Anniversary Convention, 1968, falls between two important dates in the history of San Diego. The year 1967 marked the 425th anniversary of Cabrillo's discovery of San Diego Bay in 1542, while the year 1969 marks the 200th anniversary of the founding of San Diego by Fray Junipero Serra, who established the first of the California missions here in 1769. The official convention medal takes notice of these two important events which, with the addition of a landmark occasion in aviation history, provide the theme of the medal.

The lower portion of the medal's obverse design pictures the San Salvador, flagship of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, as it rounded Point Loma on its way into San Diego Bay in 1542. Landing on Ballast Point at the base of Point Loma, Cabrillo claimed the land for Spain and named the natural harbor Bahia de San Miguel. San Diego received its present name from a later explorer, Viscaino, but San Miguel is retained as the name of a mountain visible on the horizon east of San Diego.

The upper left hand portion of the obverse pictures Mission San Diego de Alcala. Fray Junipero Serra founded the first mission in San Diego on what is today known as Presidio Hill, occupied today by a city park and historical museum. This hill was also the site of the Royal Presidio of San Diego. In 1777, the mission site was moved to the north side of Mission Valley a few miles upstream from the original site, so that the mission work would be farther removed from the secular influences of the presidio, and closer to the Indians among whom the missionary activities were carried on. At this site, the present mission building was constructed. It is this mission which is pictured on the official convention medal.

In 1883, John J. Montgomery piloted his small glider in the first controlled heavier-than-air flight in aviation history. This historic event took place on a windy hillside south of San Diego, now preserved as a public park in the city of Chula Vista. Montgomery's name is preserved in the name of this park dedicated to his pioneer flight, and in the name of Montgomery Field on San Diego's Kearny Mesa. The upper right hand portion of the medal's obverse design is dedicated to this pioneering aviation event, with a depiction of Montgomery in his first glider.

On the reverse of the medal, the theme is carried into modern times. To the left, an aircraft carrier is depicted to symbolize the importance of San Diego Harbor as the major port for the Navy's Pacific Fleet. San Diego is one of the Navy's most important bases, and the Naval Training Center is located on Harbor Drive near the new International Airport.

To the right on the medal's reverse is a representation of San Diego's modern and dynamic skyline. Within the last few years a number of magnificent high rise buildings have been constructed in downtown San Diego to stand as witnesses to San Diego's importance on land as well as on the sea and in the air.

In the center of the reverse of the official medal is the Atlas missile, built by the Astronautics Division of General Dynamics in San Diego. For years the Atlas missile served in the first line of defense for the United States, and it continues to play an important role in American space research. Aviation and Aerospace industry have long played important roles in San Diego's development. It was here that Charles Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis was built, and that company's successor, Ryan, today builds such aircraft as the Firebee target drone used in aerial weaponry training by our armed forces. Convair, well known in World War II for its production of the B-24 Liberator bomber, and later for

the F-102 and F-106 delta wing fighter planes, continues to play an important role in San Diego industry as a leader in aircraft research and development.

The size and octagonal shape of the medal is modelled after a well known shape in California numismatic history. Both the \$50 gold ingots issued by U.S. Assayer Augustus Humbert in 1851 and 1852, and the U.S. \$50 gold piece issued to commemorate the Panama Pacific Exposition in 1915 were struck in this unusual shape. This shape was chosen for the official medal to commemorate these significant issues in California numismatics.

Superimposed on the reverse design of the official convention medal is the Lamp of Knowledge, official emblem of the American Numismatics Association, symbolizing the role which our association plays in the field of numismatics education and knowledge. With an outstanding publication, *The Numismatist*, and an active program of numismatic education, the American Numismatic Association is one of the world's most progressive numismatic organizations. It celebrates its 77th anniversary this year - a dynamic association in a dynamic city. San Diego is truly a "City in Motion", a theme also expressed on the official medal. The official convention medal commemorates the A.N.A.'s choice of this city as its 77th anniversary convention site with a theme expressive of San Diego's historical past and promising future as a city "First---on Land, Sea, and in the Air."

The medal is being struck by Medallic Arts, and the design was prepared by a committee consisting of L. T. Gottschall, Ken Hegges, Mrs. Sally Vorbou and Mrs. Pat Gutowski.